

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SSC-01 /101 W
-----046302 022219Z /64

R 020655Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9823
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14090

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PEPR PDEV EG ET
SUBJECT: GOE VIEWS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION

REF: CAIRO 12815 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. GOE OFFICIAL SAYS ETHIOPIA TO BE OFFICIALLY
PROCLAIMED PEOPLES REPUBLIC IN SEPTEMBER AND
BREZHNEV AND CASTRO ALREADY INVITED TO ATTEND. PMGSE
MAY BE CONSIDERING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ERITREANS IN VIEW
OF SLOW PROGRESSTO DATE OF "OFFENSIVE" IN ERITREA.
ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO DISCUSSES NILE HEADWATERS
QUESTION WITH ACTING FORMIN. END SUMMARY.

1. DIRECTOR MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT AHMED SIDQI TOLD
EMBOFFS MAY 30 THAT EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA HAD
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HEARD FROM PDRY AMBASSADOR THAT ETHIOPIA WILL DECLARE
ITSELF PEOPLES REPUBLIC IN SEPTEMBER. MENGISTU WILL BE
INSTALLED AS BOTH PRESIDENT AND PARTY CHIEF. FINAL FORM
AND NAME OF PARTY AS YET UNDETERMINED BUT PARTY WILL
PROBABLY BE AMALGAM OF CURRENT SOCIALIST GROUPINGS, E.G.
MEI SONE. PDRY AMBASSADOR STATED THAT CASTRO, BREZHNEV
AND PDRY PRESIDENT RUBAYYI ALI ALREADY INVITED TO ATTEND

REPUBLIC'S INAUGURATION.

2. SIDQI SAID EGYPTIAN EMBASSY ADDIS ABABA HAS ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE INCREASING TENDENCY WITHIN PMGSE TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF ERITREAN QUESTION ETHIOPIAN PERFORMANCE TODATE IN STEPPED UP MILITARY OPERATIONS IN ERITREA HAS NOT BEEN IMPRESSIVE AND CUBANS HAVE GIVEN NO RECENT INDICATION OF CHANGING EARLIER DETERMINATION NOT TOBECOME INVOLVED INCOMBAT OPERATIONS. GOE BELIEVES PMGSE CONSIDERING UNGARES 390 OF 1950 AS POSSIBLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS UNDER SOVIET-SPONSORED AEGIS, BUT NO FIRM DECISIONS YET TAKEN.

3. SIDQI NOTED ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO HADMET WITHMIN STATE GHALI MAY 29,BUT STATED THAT PRESSHAD EXAGGERATED IMPORTANCE OF MEETING. ERITREAN QUESTION NOT DISCUSSED IN DETAIL AND CONVERSATION REVOLVED PRIMARILY AROUND NILE HEAD WATERS QUESTIONS (REFTEL). SIDQI CONCEDED THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS PLAY BOTH IN EGYPT (WARNING ETHIOPIANS AGAINST DAMMING NILE) AND IN ETHIOPIA (STATING THE ETHIOPIANS WOULD DO ANYTHING THEY PLEASED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES). MEETING BETWEEN GHALI AND ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR INVOLVED DISCUSSION OF WAYS TO REDUCE RHETORIC OVER BLUE NILE QUESTION AND TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO14090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0037
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806100/aaaadhwa.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6912077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 12815
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2135231
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOE VIEWS ON ETHIOPIAN SITUATION
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, EG, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6912077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014